(*b*) An investigation had been conducted and it was reported that the bridge with approaches would cost more than Rs. 50,000. A *junghar* service meets the demand of the present traffic. The Chief Engineer is of opinion that the construction of the bridge may wait till traffic develops.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): With reference to the answer to part (*b*) may I know whether Government are aware that traffic has not developed because of the absence of the bridge?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The report of the Chief Engineer after enquiry is that the traffic at present is not sufficient to justify the expenditure.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know when the Chief Engineer submitted his report?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Before November 1926.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the report was submitted after the Chief Engineer made a personal local inspection?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not able to say that now. I claim notice of that question.

Director of Ayurveda.

141. **MR. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any officer is appointed as the Director of Ayurveda, and, if so, the date of his appointment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. K. Sankara Menon was appointed as Director of Ayurveda on the 1st Chingam 1093 and he is still the Director. Now he is on 4 months' leave and the Inspector of *Vaidyasalas* has been put in charge of the department in addition to his own duties.

Toll-gate Contractors.

142. **MR. REVATINAL RAMA VARMA RAJA** (*Edavagai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is with their sanction that the toll-gate contractors have put more than one barrier on the road at almost all the places where toll-gates have been sanctioned; and

(*b*) if so, the reason for allowing them when the public are complaining of the delay caused by even one gate at a place?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government have not given any such sanction, nor are they aware of the existence of more than one barrier at a toll-gate, except where there are subsidiary toll-gates. These barriers are not permanent fixtures and are removed on the approach of vehicles or animals.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Roads and Canals in the State.

143. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the respective length of the roads and canals per square mile in each taluk in the State?

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